

June 26, 2001

Release

Mr. Mike Holland, Technical Project Manager
Brookhaven National Laboratory
P.O. Box 5000
Upton, NY 11973-5000

Dear Mr. Holland:

In a letter dated June 1, 2001, from Thomas Tenforde of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to Commissioner Diaz, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was asked to submit an expression of interest in support of future uses of the Department of Energy's Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) at the Hanford Site in Richland, Washington. We are pleased to provide a brief statement of our needs in this regard.

The NRC relies on several test reactors in the U.S. and abroad to provide data on reactor fuel behavior under steady-state and transient conditions and to provide neutron irradiation of structural materials for subsequent testing. These data and irradiations are related to increasing fuel burnups and aging in commercial power plants and to the introduction of new materials such as cladding alloys in these commercial plants. At the present time, all 104 licensed nuclear power plants in the U.S. are light-water reactors (LWRs). The NRC has certified three new evolutionary LWR designs, and is holding discussions with several interested parties about new reactor designs (Exelon's pebble bed modular reactor, General Atomic's gas-turbine modular helium reactor, and Westinghouse's international reactor innovative and secure). Thus, for the near term of 5-10 years, we expect that our needs for test reactor irradiations will be for reactors with a thermal neutron flux. In the long term, however, liquid-metal or fast-flux reactors may become part of the mix of Generation-IV reactors that will provide electricity for the country's future needs. In that case, irradiations in FFTF could become important for regulatory programs at NRC.

We recognize the need for DOE to identify future nuclear infrastructure requirements and to make policy decisions regarding the maintenance of existing facilities. We hope the above information is helpful in judging NRC's needs in relation to one of these facilities, and we appreciate being asked to express our interest.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

K/11

Mr. Mike Holland, Technical Project Manager
Brookhaven National Laboratory
P.O. Box 5000
Upton, NY 11973-5000

June 26, 2001

Dear Mr. Holland:

In a letter dated June 1, 2001, from Thomas Tenforde of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to Commissioner Diaz, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was asked to submit an expression of interest in support of future uses of the Department of Energy's Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) at the Hanford Site in Richland, Washington. We are pleased to provide a brief statement of our needs in this regard.

The NRC relies on several test reactors in the U.S. and abroad to provide data on reactor fuel behavior under steady-state and transient conditions and to provide neutron irradiation of structural materials for subsequent testing. These data and irradiations are related to increasing fuel burnups and aging in commercial power plants and to the introduction of new materials such as cladding alloys in these commercial plants. At the present time, all 104 licensed nuclear power plants in the U.S. are light-water reactors (LWRs). The NRC has certified three new evolutionary LWR designs, and is holding discussions with several interested parties about new reactor designs (Exelon's pebble bed modular reactor, General Atomic's gas-turbine modular helium reactor, and Westinghouse's international reactor innovative and secure). Thus, for the near term of 5-10 years, we expect that our needs for test reactor irradiations will be for reactors with a thermal neutron flux. In the long term, however, liquid-metal or fast-flux reactors may become part of the mix of Generation-IV reactors that will provide electricity for the country's future needs. In that case, irradiations in FFTF could become important for regulatory programs at NRC.

We recognize the need for DOE to identify future nuclear infrastructure requirements and to make policy decisions regarding the maintenance of existing facilities. We hope the above information is helpful in judging NRC's needs in relation to one of these facilities, and we appreciate being asked to express our interest.

Sincerely,
/RA/
William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

Distribution:
See attached list

C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 4.0\PDF Output\corr010093.wpd

*See previous concurrence

OAR in ADAMS? (Y or N) Y ADAMS ACCESSION NO.: ML011650735 TEMPLATE NO. RES-002

Publicly Available? (Y or N) N DATE OF RELEASE TO PUBLIC N/A SENSITIVE? Y

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without enclosures "E" = Copy with enclosures "N" = No copy

OFFICE	SMSAB	AC:SMSAB	AD:DSARE	D:DRAA
NAME	RMeyer:mb:adi	JRosenthal	FEltawila	TKing
DATE	06/14/01*	06/14/01*	06/14/01*	06/14/01*
OFFICE	DD:RES	D:RES	OCM	EDO
NAME	RZimmerman	ACThadani	RMeserve	WDTravers - JCraig
DATE	06/14/01*	06/14/01*	06/26/01	06/20/01 - 6/26/01

Letter to Mr. Mike Holland, Technical Project Manager

Distribution:

EDO Control: G20010240

CRC No: 01-0293

CPaperiello, EDO

WKane, DEDR

PNorry, DEDM

SReiter, CIO

JCraig, AO

SBurns, OGC

KCyr, OGC

SCollins, NRR

MVirgilio, NMSS

SMSAB R/F

DSARE R/F

RMeyer R/Ff

JUhle

PNorian

ASummerour